Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled in this paper. Accordingly, claims 1-15 remain in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims as now amended is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service publication entitled "Calibration of Weighing Machines" (hereinafter "UKAS"). The UKAS publication is generally directed to calibration considerations useful in the calibration of weighing machines.

Further to the statements made in the Examiner Interview of February 24, 2004, the particular passage of UKAS asserted by the Examiner as teaching the summation of weight errors is in fact drawn to obtaining a total uncertainty value existing in a plurality of physical weights making up a single test load. In other words, the cited paragraph 4.2.2 of UKAS is directed to instances where a plurality of physical weights are used in combination to comprises a single test load. In such instances, the confidence level of the total weight which is made up of the combination of each of the individual

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physical weights, should be derived by adding together each of the individual weight's known uncertainty level.

By contrast, the presently claimed method utilizes a plurality of successfully performed tests on a measuring device, wherein the measuring device reports a measured weight for each of the plurality of tests. The weight reported by the weighing device at each of the distinct tests is compared to the actual known weight of each corresponding test load so as to determine an error reading at each of the plurality of successively performed tests. The error reported by the weighing device at each of the distinct tests is subsequently summed together to obtain a total summed error reported by the weighing device over the plurality of distinct tests. This total summed error is compared to a tolerance level to determine whether calibrative steps should be taken on the respective weighing device.

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In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the UKAS reference fails to teach or suggest the method as is now claimed. The claims as now pending are therefore believed to be allowable on the merits. An early allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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